SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

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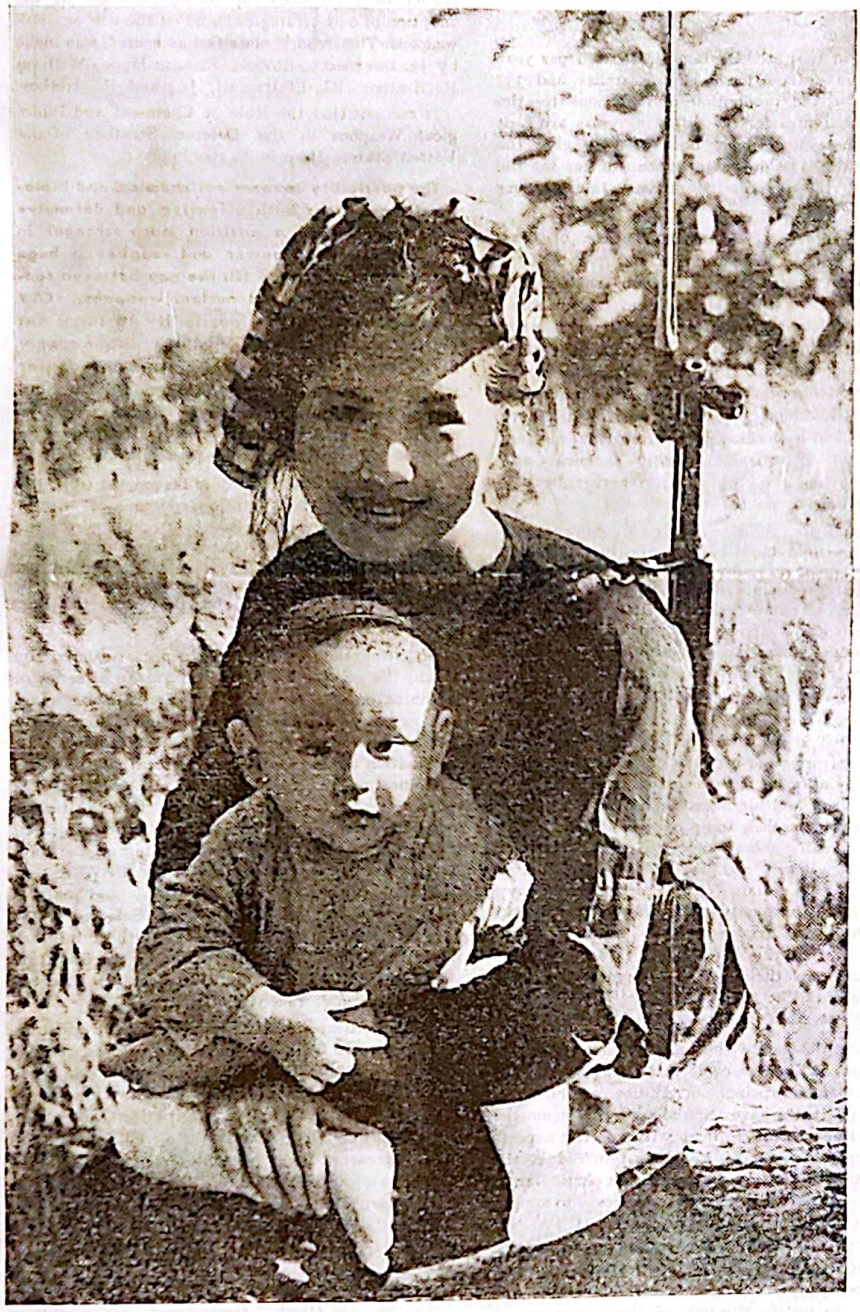
CAMBODIA

★

DAZIMINA HANOI
19, Hai Ba Trung, Hanoi, DRVN
and other South Viet Nam NFL Missions in foreign countries



She is mother, she is also valiant fighter.

New Heroes promotion of the South Viet Nam PLAF

The PRG of the SVNR has decided to confer *the "Hero Unit" title on 10 Units* of the People's Liberation Armed Forces and to honour *18 officers and fighters of the PLAF with the "PLAF hero" title.* Occasion was the 9th Anniversary of the Unification of the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces.

The honoured Units and individuals come from all the three categories of the PLAF — regular forces, regional forces, militia and home guard — and include men as well as Women combatant.

The decision signed by Huynh Tan Phat President of the PRG of the SVNR, cited :

— 2 individuals on the Front of the Southern Trung Bo battlefield ;

— 4 units and 7 individuals on the Oriental Nam Bo battlefield ;

— 3 units and 4 individuals on the Central Nam Bo battlefield ;

— 1 unit and 2 individuals on the Western Nam Bo battlefield.

— 2 units and 3 individuals on the Front of Saigon.

Thus at present the PLAF have *38 hero units and 111 heroes.*

Our editorial :

Nixon's obduracy will only bring to Washington more humilating setbacks

(Page 7)

Role of CBW in counterinsurgency

We reproduce below an extract of Chapter VII from a book by **Roger Countill**, *a young American journalist, on the chemical warfare of the United States in South Viet Nam, which we take from the Review* **Tricontinental** *N° 15.*

The hypocrisy of Nixon's speech during the 24th session of the ONU: "I hope... that we can put into practice new international initiatives in order to re-establish the equilibrium of nature and preserve our world as a healthy and pleasant for place man» is clearly revealed by this stunning chapter.

...WHEN US military planners have realized that the third world war would be fought in the forests, ricefields and high plateaux of underdeveloped countries — and not in industrialized Europe — a frantic effort has been made to develop new strategic and tactical weapons for use in counterinsurgency in isolated areas. This research of a "flexible response" in a limited war has been speeded up when Kennedy took the presidency in 1961. The principal objective of Project Agile and other counterinsurgency programs adopted by Kennedy was to develop new dissuasive weapons of non-conventional warfare that can replace the atomic bomb as "last recourse" weapon. In order to intensify the research of new strategic concepts, the Defence Department has secured the support of scientists in universities and of *think-tanks*. Civilian scientists then met with their military colleagues in seminars patronized by such organs as the Rand Corporation and the Institute for Defense Analyses to work out new concepts in researches on weapons.

In the research of new, dissuasive strategic weapons, the scientists of the defence had to follow the guidelines mentioned below when considering a proposed system of weapons:

— The weapons must be efficient against disseminated agricultural populations.

— The system must give the military leaders an answer which fits all insurrectional situations, from limited conflicts of small intensity to a "popular war" on a large scale like that of Viet Nam.

— The system must give the armies of pro-US regimes in underdeveloped countries, the possibility of putting it into practice with a minimum of contribution from the United States.

— The system must be used with a minimum of risks of detection without directly involving the United States as supplier of the weapon.

Therefore, it is evident that nuclear weapons do not constitute an apt answer for a limited war in underdeveloped countries. The bomb is not efficient against disseminated populations; it does not give a wide range of responses in tactical situations; and it cannot be supplied to other governments without meeting a strong world opposition.

A detailed analyse reveals that there is only a kind of weapons which meets all the conditions required: chemical and biological weapons (CBW). CBW agents expand in a natural way and are thus easily disseminated in rural areas; they are highly efficient against the populations who do not have a sophisticated health public system, for they can be used in various cases, to check mutinies and even to cause epidemics; they can be made by friendly governments with a minimum of material investments by the United States at the start; and when they are used, they can be disguised as natural phenomenons, thus protecting the United States from a direct involvement.

Before Kennedy's advent to power in 1961, the Army Chemical Corps had a scanty budget of 35 million dollars each year and our chemico-biological war arsenal consisted of a few nerve agents taken from the Germans at the end of the Second World War. However, since 1964, the appropriations for researches and development of CBW have rocketed; in 1964, the Pentagon allocated per year 160 million dollars for such researches and 137 millions for the production of munitions for the CBW. (The figures for the following years are kept secret). These funds have been used to give the United States a wide range of substances for the CBW and the systems of delivery in whatever area of the world.

In daily practice, CW means the use of toxic chemicals against men, animals and plants. They include both anti-personnel weapons such as the yperite of the First World War, and "uneatable" substance which poison animals and crops. Chemical weapons also comprise irritable and paralysing substances which restrict the military efficiency of the enemy without causing a permanent physiological affection (this kind includes "psycho-chemical" substances and hallucinogens which provoke momentary mental disturbances). Deadly chemicals now only comprise gases which affect nerves, because of their efficiency on the battlefield.

BW means the intentional use of living organisms or their toxic products to cause death, incapacity or diseases for man, animals and plants. BW operational agents include a variety of bacteria, viruses, microbes which cause rachitism, fungi and toxins. Some biological weapons, in particular those agents which produce fungi are mainly used to destroy crops; others are highly virulent micro-organisms which can cause deadly epidemics among the population.

The United States has a perfect network of research laboratories and installations to produce CBW agents; she allocate millions of dollars each year to universities and big industries to carry out supplementary researches and production. Army CBW bases alone enlist more than 3,750 officers and men and 9,700 civilians, and their value is estimated at 1,000 million dollars (3). The air force and navy have been involved only after the Second World War (while the Army produced its first CBW weapons during the First World War), but they have drawn up their own development programs very substantial at that. The main CBW installations are described in Table I.

As a complement to the research undertaken by the Pentagon in its own laboratories, a great number of big enterprises, universities, non-lucrative research institutes have secured contracts from the Defence Department to deal with specific aspects of development of CBW. Very great indeed is the contribution of civilian scientists — in particular of those associated with the universities — to supply the country with the means to wage a CBW. Not only have the university scientists given an essential support to carry out basic researches on CBW agents, but they have also evolved theories and strategies to justify the use of these weapons, in an attempt at crushing national liberation movements in underdeveloped countries. University professors have been, in fact, in the van of these efforts to make our strategy of dissuasion, from a system based on the atom, a system relying on CBW weapons.

Among the many university professors who have contributed to the development of strategies for the use of CBW weapons in counterinsurgency, the most outstanding are a number of enthusiasts in the Pennsylvania (Penn) University at the beginning of the '60s. Between 1960 and 1967, the scientists of the Penn Institute for Co-operative Reseach (ICR) have secured contracts valued at several million dollars to carry out CBW researches (the opposition of the faculty has compelled an annulment of these contracts in 1967). With the "Spicerak" and "Summit" contracts the Penn group has managed to make great headway in the technology of this kind of war (4).

The Penn program of researches did not restrict itself to academic studies on the properties of CBW in the reports to their protectors in the Pentagon; the Penn scientists have done their best to convince the Pentagon functionaries of the efficiency of these weapons. In 1964, the researchers at the ICR and the Foreign Policy Research (FPRI) of Penn drew up an intervention on the adoption of new strategies based on the use of CBW weapons. This report, classified as secret, was made by JE Dougherty, Robert Stransz-Hupe, William R. Kintner, RL Pfaltzgraff, Jr., and RC Herber.

It was entitled the Role of Chemical and Biological Weapons in the Defense Strategy of the United States. Here is its conclusion:

The possibility to carry out chemical and biological operations both offensive and defensive gives this nation a position much stronger in the struggle for power and supplies a huge force of contention to fill the gap between conventional weapons and nuclear weapons... CBW weapons can offer the possibility to carry out tactical and strategic operations either openly or covertly with the intensity required for whatever war witho t entailing a logistic burden beyond the possibilities of many smaller nations. An efficacious control of the production of CBW weapons seem impracticable (5).

This short affirmation could be considered as the counterpart of the notorious letter of Albert Einstein to President Roosevelt informing the latter of the possibility to make the atomic bomb. These two positions constitute a revolutionary change in the methods of conventional war-one foretold the Hiroshimas and the other the Viet Nams to come.

To strengthen the wide prospects offered by Penn, the scientists of CBW have made a series of technical studies on the application of such weapons in various counterinsurgent operations. Penn has even made a report entitled "Situations for Evaluation of Air Delivered Chemical and Biological Munitions in Counterinsurgent Operations" as part of its obligations to the air force, after its contract Spicerak Project. The Travelers Research Center, Inc. Hartford, Conn, another organe having secured important contracts for CBW researches (See Table III), has made studies and analyses of systems on Applications of Selected CBW Agents to Counterinsurgeneey. Other military research organizations, in particular the Institute for Defense Analyses and the Research Analyses Corp, have undertaken similar studies.

CBW enthusiasts have already had a great influence on the US military policy: our present CBW arsenal in Viet Nam comprises several kinds of tear gages and vomitive gases along with a family of agents to destroy crops, weed killers and defoliative agents. Huge quantities of CBW munitions more greater have been stocked in the United States and abroad pending the authorization for their use. These agents and the use meant for them will be considered further.

(To be continued)

(3) eymour Hersh, *Chemical and Biological Weapons — The Secret Arsenal, The New York Times, Sunday Magazine* (25 August 1968), p. 85.

(4) *For more details, see Elinor Langer, Chemical and Biological Warfare, Science, Vol.* 155 (13-20 January 1967), p. 177; *and Carol Brightman, The Weed Killers, Chemical and Biological Warfare in Viet Nam, Viet Report June — July* 1966), p. 33-34, 42-45.

(5) *TAB (Technical Abstract Bulletin), US Army Department (bimonthly publication of the Defense Documentation Center, Alexandria, Virg.), May* 1, 1965.

* *Translation from the French language.*

The Massacre at My Lai

To MY LA (SON MY) the Americans came
To murder and plunder in democracy's name,
Poisoned with hate and fury slay
They ravaged MY LAI the fascist way.

Old men, old women and children too
All died to appease the hateful few,
An outraged world cries for revenge
Against the aggressors murdering venge.

Viet Cong villagers you gave your lives
In freedom's name, made sacrifice
In blood, and tears and searing pain
You died for freedom, not in vain.

Oh evil tyrants their triggers pull,
No thought for life, they lay there still
Shot through with bullets meant to kill
Innocent people, their blood you spill.

For this foul deed you must pay the price
For all those lives you've sacrificed
On judgement day a voice must say
'Condemned to death your lives for they'.

And if by chance you all go free
You'll pay deaths price for liberty
Your conscience will forever be
With those you killed at MY LAI, SON MY.

by W.G. FOX,
52 Kennigo Street,
Vally 4006,
Brisbane,
Australia.

25th November, 1969

We protest vigorously the Nixon's chemical war

*** During the first 10 months : 905,780 hectares exposed to sprayings—285,740 people intoxicated**

Statement by the South Viet Nam Committee for denunciation of the Crimes of the US imperialists and their henchmen on the intensification of US chemical warfare in South Viet Nam.

In their aggressive war against South Viet Nam, US imperialists have stopped at no barbarous manoeuvres and acts.

Since 1961, chemical warfare was being waged continuously and systematically and toxic gases and noxious chemicals had been used to kill people, to destroy crops and vegetations, cattle and poultry and all sources of man's supply, to create famine, to devastate the land and its natural resources. Viet Nam was turned out to be a testing ground and Vietnamese, to guinea pigs for the experimentation of mass-destruction weapons by US aggressors who intend to subdue the Vietnamese people.

Since Nixon came to power, the use of toxic chemicals has been stepped up. In February 1969, they were used in dozens of times at Cocava Mount, Thua Thien province. On March 1969, gas bombs and containers of gas were poured over Chau Thanh district, Tay Ninh province. On May 17, 18, they were dropped in 34 times at A Bia Mount, Thua Thien province. On July 18 and 20, noxious agents and over 100 cannon gas shells were used at Ba Den Mount. Tay Ninh provinse, intoxicating thousands of people, a great deal of which died, 30 babies killed on the spot, etc...

In order to justify their gruesome crimes the US aggressors used to argue that they were no lethal but merely "tear gas" with an "irritant" effect etc.. Furthermore, they cynically called them "humane weapons". It is noteworthy to recall that in an operation October 5, 1965, US brigade 173 and other Australian units were delivered gas masks and Westmoreland gave them permission to use CS and CN gases (AFP October 10, 1965).

In another raid at Cu Chi district, Gia Dinh province in January 1966, thousands of US, Australian and New Zealander soldiers pumped CN gas mixed with other toxic agents into the people's shelters, killing more than 100 persons. Those very agents had killed Robert Bowtell, a 21 year-old Australian NCO and intoxicated 6 other Australian soldiers although they all wore gas masks (Reuter January 12, 1969).

Those but few data suffice to lay bare the brutal and perfidious nature of the US aggressors.

The other toxic chemicals they called "defoliants" and "Weed Killers" are being used in high dosage with a very high frequency in a same region and on an ever increasing scale, are becoming actually toxic chemicals designed to destroy crops and harvests, cattle and poultry, to cut off the population from all sources of supply and have caused many deaths.

According to preliminary investigation and figures:

In 1964 2.1 million litres of toxic chemicals were sprayed
In 1967 25. "
In 1968 37.8 "

Year	Hectares exposed to sprayings	Number of people affected
1961 (from Aug. to the end of Dec.)	560	80
1962.	11,030	1,120
1963.	320,000	9,000
1964.	500,230	11,000
1965.	700,000	146,240
1966.	876,490	258,000
1967.	903,320	270,700
1968.	989,300	302,890

(Continued page 7)

To terrorize women: an unpardonable crime of the US aggressors

IN the aggressive war imposed by the American aggressors, the South Vietnamese people in general, and the women in particular, have suffered countless atrocities. The enemy swoop on South Viet Nam like a pack of devils, and open fire at the peaceful population. Women old and young, and even infants are subjected to arbitrary arrest, torture and murder. In South Viet Nam at present, prisons are more numerous than schools, being set up both in town and countryside, down to the hamlet.

A typical instance of this is the 1,400 women illegally detained in Thu Duc jail, including small girls, who have but their morale for self-defence.

The US-puppet crimes against the detainees in Thu Duc prison together with the blowing up of nearly 100 patriots in Tay Ninh jail on June 19, 1969, the massacre of about 800 women political prisoners in Yard 6, Block A, Poulo Condor penitentiary in February and March 1969, the bloody repression of hundreds of patriots in Tan Hiep Hoa camp (Bien Hoa) in April 1969, the hundreds and thousands of other atrocious persecutions and slaughters: Ba Lang An, Son My, Kong H'Ring Thang Binh, Que Son... are evidence that the US-puppets are carrying out a policy of frantic terror against the peace-and freedom women now illegally detained.

Throughout South Viet Nam, women from 13 to 50 years-oldlive in the fear of being raped, tortured or applied electricity into their genitals at any moment «to prevent them from giving birth to Viet Cong», as the torturers usually threaten.

The intensification of terror and massacre against the patriots now illegally detained by the US-puppets, carried out along with the stepped up B.52 bombings, use of poison gases and toxic chemicals to slaughter on masse the South Vietnamese people, destroy crops, clearly aims at serving their plot to drag on the aggressive war of the US imperialists in South Viet Nam.

While they brag on their "freedom" and "democracy" in South Viet Nam, they terrorize the South Vietnamese women: this is an apt answer and a smarting blow at the face of the American aggressors.

Nixon has resorted to quibbles to explain away their crimes, putting the blame on a few subordinates, rigging up the farce of punishing the culprits, giving information on the crimes, expressing his regret for the incidents... in an attempt at placating the American and world peoples. However, he cannot cover up his face of murderer. The women in South Viet Nam, in the United States and the world over will punish him.

NGUYEN QUANG

"Long-Haired" army's *political front*

Confection of flags
Water-colour by Huynh Phuong Dong

In the bubbling revolution waged in the last few decades in South Viet Nam, the women have contributed by their courage and intelligence to the struggle for national salvation under variegated and versatile forms to defend the national vital rights and their own dignity.

After the concerted uprisings, millions of women have devoted heart and soul to the triumph of the revolution. In this great struggle and victory, they have grown up in all respects, worthy of the "heroic, indomitable, faithful and resourceful" title conferred on them by the NFL.

At the First Women's Congress held on March 8, 1965, Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho, President of the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, said: "The South Vietnamese women have made a great contribution to the nation-wide war of resistance for national salvation. In the political struggle in particular, they have become the vanguards who hold the enemy in awe and earn the great admiration of their friends all over the world..."

In fact, in political actions, the South Viet Nam women are the shock forces always ready to deal the enemy staggering blows. From groups of three or four to hundreds of women, this movement has drawn greater and greater numbers of women, such as the actions of twenty or thirty thousand people at Ben Tre, Tay Ninh, Can Tho, Long An, My Tho, to defend their lives and property.

Everywhere, in town and country, in the highlands as well as in enemy temporarily controlled areas, the majority and minority people, from little girls to old women, have risen up powerfully and attacked the enemy unremittingly by courageous acts and cogent arguments. Since the concerted uprisings, tens of thousands of actions involving tens of millions of women have demonstrated the huge revolutionary force and potentiality of South Vietnamese women. The struggle put up by this unheard of "long-haired" army has helped foil many plans of the enemy to mop up and herd the inhabitants, pressgang soldiers, disintegrate the puppet army and administration and sow confusion in the enemy's rear bases.

In this movement, the South Viet Nam people are very proud of their valiant daughters as those in the Tay Ninh Holy See area who, empty handed, stopped bulldozers and shouted at the enemy's face that they were resolved to defend their land and property at any cost.

After the Mau Than Tet festival, the political struggle movement has taken a new turn in which the enemy, clobbered by the South Vietnamese armed forces and people in the general offensive and simultaneous uprisings, is forced to dig in urban centres and along trunk communication lines. That is why, this movement has become more and more powerful in the periphery of towns and cities in areas still under the enemy's control.

In the wake of their successes, our unarmed women by big units have switched their field of action from the countryside to the towns where they prevent the enemy from committing crimes and compel him to meet the legitimate demands of the people. Particularly, after the US unconditional bombing halt in the North, this movement of direct confrontation with the enemy has been developed all over South Viet Nam, in town as well as country.

Millions of women have broken into administrative offices and military bureaux to demand an end to the war, re-establishment of peace, overthrow of Thieu-Ky-Khiem, formation of a peace cabinet, negotiations with the South Viet Nam NFL; they also put up slogans demanding people's democratic rights and opposing sweeps, terror, pressganging civil guard, election hoax and "accelerated pacification". This was also the salient feature in South Viet Nam urban centres in the closing months of 1967. This movement has gained greater momentum as the impoverishment policy of the Saigon puppet administration has become more perfidious.

Co-ordinating political actions with the agitation among puppet troops, the South Viet Nam women have resorted to emotional bonds to persuade, discriminate, educate and disintegrate tens of thousands of members of the puppet army and win them to the side of the people.

They also activate them to sympathize with and support political actions or to rise up and punish the die-hard wicked thugs and cross over to the side of the people with their kits. Awakened by our women, hundreds of thousands of families having their dear ones in the puppet army have persuaded the latter to throw away their weapons and return home.

In the present revolutionary upsurge, with their unity, creative initiative and huge strength, the women in South Viet Nam, together with the rest of the people, will entirely thwart the US plan of "Vietnamizing" the war of aggression in order to secure happiness for their families and wrest back independence and freedom for the Fatherland.

PHAN HUU

In our liberated zone

- **Women-workers of the Tran Phu Printing shop**
  by Le Lam
- **Good fighting, good study**
  by Nguyen Ngoan

South Viet Nam women on the front of the anti-US struggle

THE women constitute a big force of a strategic character of the treble front struggle—political and military struggle and agitation among enemy ranks—in the war of resistance being carried out by the South Vietnamese people against US aggression, for national salvation.

Carrying forward the glorious tradition of resistance to foreign aggression dating back to the Trung Sisters and Ba Trieu and continuing the determination of the Vietnamese people in the past revolutionary periods reflected in the famous saying "when the enemy comes, even the women fight back", the South Vietnamese women have, since the 1959-60 concerted uprising, taken an active part in the struggle and recorded many brilliant achievements in serving the fight as well as in their direct participation in the fight. Their exploits have struck fear into the heart of the enemy and brought glory to the Vietnamese women in the world.

The South Viet Nam women have joined in ever bigger numbers the liberation armed forces, especially the militia and guerillas. In many localities, women make up the greater part in the militia and guerilla units. In several villages of district X (Phu Yen province), for instance, more than 50% of the guerillas are women. They are fighting the enemy chiefly in their own villages, in small units and with many imaginative and flexible methods of combat suitable to their conditions, using every kind of weapons at their disposal, hence the high efficiency of their fight. In the past, the women's participation was chiefly in the building of fortified villages and hamlets or in the cutting of enemy communication lines. Today, bringing into play their abilities in all fields, an increasing number of women are fighting the enemy with arms in hand. Not only are they handling expertly the *primitive and conventional* weapons, but also making use with increasing efficiency of the relatively modern weapons and inflicting ever heavier casualties on the enemy. In many places, women guerillas are organized into groups, squads or platoons commanded by their own chiefs to fight in independent actions or in co-ordination with male guerillas. Sometimes, a woman guerilla team or a single woman guerilla could organize an attack on a whole "strategic hamlet", breaking an enemy raid and fighting off hundreds of raiders. The women's combat technique and tactic have also been improved day after day.

Symbolizing the armed struggle of the South Viet Nam women is Heroine Nguyen Thi Ut, a mother of six who fought the enemy in all circumstances and by every means, sowing permanent panic among the enemy. An example of courage and flexibility in fighting can be found in the women guerilla squad commanded by To Thi Huynh in Tra Vinh who have engaged the enemy on more than 200 occasions and who have many times beaten off battalion—sized raids of the enemy by relying firmly on the fortified village. Mrs Y in Phuoc Hoa village (Binh Dinh province) has commanded a guerilla team in a day-long battle against a US battalion. Mrs X. a woman secret home-guard in Saigon has by herself wiped out hundreds of puppet field policemen right in the streets.

The South Vietnamese people take great pride in their armed forces heroines like Ta Thi Kieu who captured several enemy posts with her bare hands; or Can Lich, the woman-guerilla in the Central Viet Nam High Plateaux who has led the women of her nationality to stick to their villages and fields while fighting victoriously against enemy raiders; or Nguyen Thi Hanh and Nguyen Thi Thanh who, operating efficaciously behind enemy lines, gave no respite to the US and puppets; or posthumously decorated Heroine To Thi Huynh who was responsible for the creation and brilliant exploits of the women guerilla team in Luong Hoa (Long An province)...

In particular, since the spring of 1968, the number of women taking part in the armed struggle has multiplied rapidly. As the resistance entered the spring of 1967-68, many women guerilla units were formed: The Nguyen Thi Dinh team in Ben Tre, the Nguyen Thi Hanh team in Long An, the guerilla teams in Cu Chi, Trang Bang, Ben Cat, Tay Ninh...

In the various drives of general offensive since Spring 1968, many women guerilla teams have achieved outstanding exploits for which they have been commended by the Command of the Liberation Armed Forces and the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam Women's Union for Liberation. A few instances, a woman home-guard squad in Hue city put out of action more than 100 GIs in a week; the women guerilla platoon of Trang Bang wiped out a US platoon and shot down a US plane during a day-long battle, four women guerilla teams in Southern Long An during the two months after their founding fought 30 battles, wiping out 300 US and puppet troops, and destroyed 15 cannons; the women home-guard team of Duc Lap Ha (Long An), including a 15-year-old member, knoked out of action 12 tanks. In particular, the women's artillery teams, though newly founded, have dealt very hard blows at the enemy as in Rach Gia and Long An. A squad of women home-guards in the Le Thi Rieng battalion, fighting on its own, has put out of action many enemy right in the streets of Saigon. Other home-guard teams have done their worthy share in the attacks against the administrative office of the 5th Precinct, against the headquarters of the General Staff of the puppet army, the "Five Lights Lamp" battle, the Ma Lo battle...

The women have fought the enemy not only in organized guerrilla teams but also in separate actions by individuals, using every weapons at their disposal like spike traps, home-made mines and grenades... In the emulation movement to "find out the Yanks and wipe them out and to find out the puppets to hit them" there have emerged hundreds of valiant women fighters. Some of them have received three titles at the same time: "Valiant fighter against the Yanks", "Valiant fighter against armoured vehicles" and "determined to fight and to win".

On the occasion of the 9th founding anniversary of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation (1969) and the recent 9th anniversary of the Unification Day of the South Viet Nam Liberation Armed Forces, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam decided to honour 38 units and 41 fighters including three women as "Hero Units" and heroes or heroines of the South Viet Nam Liberation Armed Forces. Heroine Nguyen Thi Lai, a village militia cadre in Thua Thien province has killed 200 enemy while holding to the population to build and expand the popular base of the revolution. Heroine Le Thi Sau, company leader of a main-force unit, has set a shining example of dedication to the revolutionary of industriousness, thrift and public-mindedness, of firm revolutionary will and courage. She has been present at the most crucial points of the fight and fulfilled with high merits all tasks assigned to her. Heroine Nguyen Viet Hong (posthumously decorated) a fighter of the regional force, has courageously denounced the crimes of the aggressors and the traitors, attacking the enemy till her last breath, setting a brilliant example of indomitableness and revolutionary heroism.

Not only in the military field but also on the political front and in the agitation campaign among the enemy ranks, the South Viet Nam women have also proved their great capabilities, fully exploiting the advantages offered them by their conditions. In the counter-raid operations, they would lay mines to kill enemy raiders and after the battle would come out to demonstrate against terror and show the right path to the enemy troops, preventing their criminal acts. They have closely and skilfully combined armed struggle with political struggle to win very significeat victories in different places and in different circumstances. Even in the areas still under enemy control—the urban centres and strategic hamlets—the women have waged a constant and resolute struggle against the enemy on a treble front: military, political struggle and agitation among enemy ranks, while retaining their legal status.

Besides their achievements in the armed struggle, the women have also made big contributions to serving the fight by joining supply teams, taking care of the wounded armymen...

Many of them defying the hardships of long trips through jungles, have carried heavy loads of food, ammunition or medicaments to help ensure timely supply to the front and victory for the military campaigns.

On the frontline, the teams of war service women have braved enemy bombs and shells to fulfil their jobs as stretcher-bearers or medics. Tens of thousands of young women have joined the brigades of Young Volunteers to fight against US Aggression, for National Salvation, exemplifying the spirit of endurance, the sense of responsibility and discipline, and have recorded many brilliant achievements. The most typical among them is Doan Thi Lien, 19, who protected wounded armymen with her own body during an enemy bombing. She was posthumously conferred the title "Heroine of the National Front for Liberation".

The exploits cited above naturally reflect only a very minimal part of the contributions of the South Viet Nam women. They, however, suffice to demonstrate their great capabilities in armed struggle.

The South Viet Nam women have added lustre to the noble tradition of the Vietnamese women crystallized in those qualities "Heroism, Indomitableness, Fidelity, Enterprise" and the glorious tradition of national resistance to foreign aggression handed down by the Trung Sisters and Ba Trieu.

The South Viet Nam people can rightly take pride in the glorious achievements and the great contributions of the Vietnamese women in general and those in South Viet Nam in particular to the common revolutionary cause of the nation. The South Vietnamese women are truly worthy of the commendation by President Ho Chi Minh, the esteemed leader of the Vietnamese people: "The women of our country, old and young alike, from the old times to the present time, from the South to the North, are truly heroic."

THANH NGOC

The fighting mother

★ ★

BA Mi post was besieged by the guerillas. It was located in the Tam Ngai sector defended by a platoon under the command of a sixty-year old ex-Catholic priest who donned the frock in the morning and the military uniform in the afternoon, and his wife, a former nun aged twenty. The altar was served to discuss means of killing and the grotto, symbolizing the Christ's birth place, was turned into underground fortifications bristling with loopholes. The credulous flock could hear there pious prayers and the murderers come to learn various methods of torture and killing. This was also the lair of district chief Hum, a landlord who used to collect land rent among the Catholics. With this post installed in the church, Ba Mi, a smaller one manned by two groups of civil guards, formed a system of strongholds defending the right flank of the Cau Ke military sector preventing all thrust to Tam Ngai.

For this siege, the guerillas had to do all kinds of work: raising embankment to cut off the route of the enemy reinforcements coming from Cau Ke, wiping out wicked thugs, attacking the Cau Ke garrison, lying in wait around the post on a round-the-cloch basis.

The embankment was as high as a big knoll. From the experiences learnt by Ut at Ke Sach, the girl guerillas picked up a boatful of coconut shells with which they studed the mount and they hung hand-grenades all over it. The enemy ventured on it and was wiped out. He poured on it tons of shells without daring to drive past.

The attack was made by the male guerillas close to the post and the girl guerillas on the outer ring. The young girls won their first victory without firing a shot.

It transpires that once Ut saw kiddies flying an acetylene-swollen balloon. She asked for one and hung to it a handkerchief: it flew all the same. After discussion with her mates, she tied to it an NFL flag, and had it flown in the direction of Cau Ke at the end of a rope, to entice the enemy. On the ground below, she had spike-pits dug and filled with empty tins to frighten the enemy by their clinking, and a hand-grenade hung at the end of the spike-field. One day, from Cau Ke, the enemy marched in two columns on Strategic Hamlet No 3 — over which flew the balloon — to encircle it. The first column took twenty casualties and opened up on the second one operating in Hamlet No 1. Believing that the attack was mounted by the guerillas, the second column returned a heavy fire. Our fighters waiting in Hamlet No 3 laughed to their hearts' content. After the clash, the two columns proceeded to the spike-field where, scared by the jingle of the tins, they jumped into the traps. Almost thirty men were either mown down by gunshots or wounded by spikes.

Tam Ngai took part in the campaign in high gear. A great movement of craft, men and weapons was observed through the night, Ut met her children between midnight and the next morning and casually dropped in the daytime to see them and take ammunition. None of Ut's five children pestered her.

They were quite accustomed to our gun report. When they heard it, they would venture a guess, saying: "Mother fights here, father strikes there; in front of our house is Hamlet No 3; next to it are Hamlets No 1 and No 2; opposite is Cau Ke. behind it is Ba Mi post..."

Though busy with her work, the eldest daughter did not fail to guide her brothers and sisters to take shelter when aircraft were swarming over their heads. On hearing the megaphones on choppers calling the PLAF to surrender, they remembered what their mother had said: "The PLAF have gone out to attack your posts; only the junior PLAF are home, and they never surrender". When there are no more Yankees and quislings the Liberation fighters will return home to farm their land and nurse their children..."

Be, Ut's eldest daughter always kept herself busy: from dawn to dark, she had a kerchief rolled on her head and her trousers turned up at knee level even in sleep. She cooked rice for her brothers and sisters to eat and amused them by having all of them swung in a hammock. She ran to the liaison station to offer her service as errand-girl. At odd moments, she would climb up a coconut-palm to have a look at the district offices, the workshop, the river and the localities where her father and mother were fighting. From the tree, she could tell the locations of enemy bombardments: Cha Met, Phong Phu, Tan An, Xeo Khe, Duong Duc, Tra On. Everybody would look up at her on the tree for information. In the absence of her mother, she would take her boat and go to the "puppet soldierper-suasion office" to bring home plenty of cartridges. Then fighters' sponsoring mother would give her rice, cakes, foods, for her brothers and sisters at home; she would always leave something for her mother, a ripe banana for instance.

Usually, Ut returned home past midnight. When Be answered the door, all her four brothers and sisters waked up to welcome their mother. Ut hugged them and distributed to them the cakes she had received from the old women after the engagement. The atammering of her children was for her a source of joy, a peculiar joy which made her forget the danger she had just experienced; this danger, even real, could not now disturb the cosy atmosphere in which they were living. Frankly speaking, when lying in ambush, she was entirely engrossed in killing the enemy. At the first shot, she forgot everything, even her fighting hole. Only, on the way home, did she think of her children. She wondered with whom they would live in case she were killed. Her mind was at rest when she knew that they would live with the people, as they were now. She was fighting hard now for their future happiness. If the enemy was not driven away, he would kill them all. She could not put up with the assumption that her children would eventually hire themselves out as she formerly did, and she said to her children: "We'll go the whole hog in this fight".

Ut looked at the jar of rice and the bottle of sauce and worked out the next day's time table for them. Then she went to bed. Be fetched medicinal leaves which she spread on the bed to warm her pregnant mother. A while later, the husband went home and the same cheerful mood prevailed again.

Both husband and wife went to the battlefield very early the next morning to avoid enemy's raids. The story about their children rejoiced the guerilla unit. The fighting resumed. It was always a source of merriment for them all. Everyday the young girls would go and draw the wicked thugs into an ambush for the male unit to wipe them out. Seven of them died that way. Once Ut and her mates went out to hunt the tyrant Thay Muoi. Hit by a bullet, he tumbled out of the bridge and became a fat target for the girls to practise shooting. In an attack on a post, they waded through a waterlogged ricefield with a splashing sound. Arriving near the post, they whispered to one another the orders to conceal their rifles. They lived very trying but exciting days. On such hectic moments, Ut would tell her mates how, as a servant, she sprinkled wild seeds on the bed of Ham Gioi and his wife and made them scratch all through the night. After an attack, when her group held a social and she was in pod, with a mask and a red cummerbund on, Ut would play the Bogey in the Licorn dance, to the merriment of the gathering

One night, we invested Ba Mi post and stormed Thanh Phu post with the co-ordination of regular troops. All the Tam Ngai village took part in the action: "old people and children sounded rattles or beat drums: self-defence groups raised obstacles. Male guerillas encircled the Church post. Ut and her unit surrounded Ba Mi post. She went there with her swollen abdomen only after a long talk with Mr. Ba Te to get his permission.

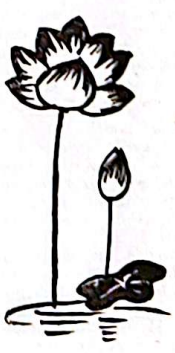
Taking position at nightfall, she had to jump over ten ditches. She thought to herself that her future child must be very skilful in fighting. When we opened up at Thanh Phu, our megaphone began to speak at Ba Mi. The puppet troops called Ut and her husband names. The planes which were dropping flares over Thanh Phu flew to Ba Mi. Ut gave orders to her mates to open fire so as to attract the attention of the enemy on Ba Mi and relieve our men at Thanh Phu, as Ut and her husband had usually done to help each other. This was the habit at Tam Ngai: when a gun shot was heard, people would rush in an lend a hand even to a single fighter.

At one o'clock the next morning, Ut and her unit withdrew from the battlefield. After clearing the last ditch, she felt her waist ailing and tumbled. She searched her body some wound, but found none; only the baby in her womb was fidgetting, heralding that it was about to see the light of day.

That night, Thanh Phu post was overrun.

NGUYEN THI

(Extracts from the Fighting Mother)



editorial

NIXON'S OBDURACY WILL ONLY BRING TO WASHINGTON MORE HUMILIATING SETBACKS

IN the Viet Nam part of Mr Nixon's February 18, 1970 message, he has again written: "A just peace in Viet Nam has been and remain our goal" and "to seek a just peace," we pursued two distinct but mutually supporting of action: "negotiations and Vietnamization." Despite his formidable mass media systems's attempt to ballyhoo his speech as a new strategy of peace or an unusual pronouncement, there was nothing novel or extraordinary in it. What had been said in his May 14 and November 3, 1969 addresses was restated. What was new was the furbished brilliance of his rhetoric

THERE has always been ever since he assumed office, two distinct courses of action.

On the one hand, at the Paris talks which have had 55 sessions, the US side has consistently shut the door on a fair political settlement by sticking to its colonialist and aggressive guns and dodging the most crucial issue i.e. unconditional and total withdrawal of US and satellite troops from SVN. In the February 18 pi-jaw, nothing was said about a timetable to this effect. The US President instead asserted "If we were to accept these demands, we would have conceded the fundamental points at this issue. There would be nothing left to negotiate".

For more than a year, such a stance has been under fire from public opinion at home and abroad for the simple reason that Mr Nixon's professed search for peace has been belied by the grim facts of continued occupation and atrocities by US soldiery in South Viet Nam. This gruelling war has been imposed on the South Vietnamese whose purpose in taking up arms has never been other than preserve their basic national rights and right to self determination. So, short of the US pull-out and removal of the present US-installed administration of Benedict Arnolds; all professions of Mr Nixon's "will to negotiate" remain an empty word.

On the other hand, coupled with his peace promotion campain, Vietnamization, the other "course of action", has been pursued for over a year. The tragic facts of South Viet Nam during the whole of this period have bared the brutal nature of this process, as prolongation of the killing and destruction with more sweeps, B52 bombings, chemical spraying, as continuation in office of quislings, as consolidation and beefing up of the puppet army to make them into political and military tools of US neo-colonialism. It smacks of the most brazen faced hypocrisy to talk of one's peace will and peace efforts while one's deadliest engines of death and most sanguinary hordes are let loose in South Viet Nam. No peace is conceivable while Vietnamization, i.e. stepped-up hostilities is going on. No fair political settlement is thinkable when withdrawal of US troops is conditional, when the puppet administration and army are still there. No real peace can be achieved, no serious negotiations can be conducted as long as US aggression is kept up, and the fundamental national rights and right to self-determination of the South Vietnamese are under a serious challenge. The US Chief Executive's affirmation that "Vietnamization ...is a spur to negotiations" only betrayed its sinister designs; a position of strength to force on our people a solution on US neo-colonialist terms.

NIXON's "two distinct courses of action: negotiations and Vietnamization" spelled out his persistent unwillingness to stop the atrocious war, his utter disregard of the legitimate aspirations of the world and American peoples: a prompt, total and unconditional pull-out of US and satellite troops and settlement of their internal affairs by the South Vietnamese, free from outside interference, the first being the keystone to a peaceful solution of the SVN issue based on the respect of the South Vietnamese people's fundamental national rights and right to self-determination, as suggested by the NFL and SVNRPRG 10 points and urged by the world and US progressives.

Persistence in "Vietnamization", instead of taking the path of honour out of the quagmire of defeat, will meet with stiff resistance from the South Vietnamese. The Nixon Administration's setbacks in 1969, the first of the implementation of "Vietnamization" — 235,000 US and satellite casualites, to cite only one item — gave an initial indication that the move was no shot in the arm for Mr Nixon and his agents.

The SVN NFL and PRG have made it plainly clear that in case of continued refusal by the American aggressors to comply with the South Vietnamese people's wishes, these will fight to a finish, deeply attached to genuine peace as they are. They are sure to live up to their resolve which has been strengthened by President Ho Chi Minh's last instructions.

The South Vietnamese and the American peoples and the world progressives will have the last word.

SOUTH VIET NAM

AGAINST THE "CHICAGO CONSPIRANCY" TRIAL

ON February 18, in Chicago, despite of the innocence of the seven peace fighters brought before the court, among them David Dellinger, the Co-Chairman of the new Moratorium to end the Viet Nam war, an American federal court declared that five of them were guilty "of having crossed State borders to incite ricts."

On February 20, the above-mentioned court sentenced each of them to 5 years' imprisonment and a 5,000-dollars fine.

In the last time, together with American progressives who have voiced their anger at this reactionary and anti-democratic act of the US government, South Vietnamese people have energitically denounced and strongly condemned the trial of Chicago.

Many NFL mass organisations and the "South Vietnamese Committee for solidarity with the American people" have issued declarations, sent messages to the American people, and called on the world public opinion to join its efforts to theirs.

After recalling the repressive acts of Washington against the American antiwar movement, the declaration of the "South Vietnamese Committee for solidarity with the American people" emphasized: "The South Vietnamese people strongly denounce and severely condemn the fascist measures of the US government, demand that the Nixon administration immediately liberate all leaders of the mass movement against racial discrimination and for an end to the Viet Nam war, and annul the Chicago trial."

Victims of the aggressive war and abominables crimes perpetrated by the US aggressor, the South Vietnamese people call on all those in the world who love peace, freedom and justice to condemn energetically the extremely perfidious and reactionary policy of the US government and demand that it must put an end to its barbarous repression against American progressive people.

We protest vigorously...

(*Continued from page 3*)

The above-mentioned figures suffice to show the US escalation in the chemical warfare in South Viet Nam. In particular, since Nixon's inauguration, chemical warfare is given a great impetus. According to preliminary investigation and data, during the first 10-month period under Nixon, 905,780 hectares were exposed to sprayings and 285,740 people affected. Sprayings were focussed on the Mekong delta and the Trung Bo coastal region, i.e. on very densely populated areas with a view to destroy the source of supply and to cause the maximum of deaths.

Toxic chemicals have killed people and seriously impaired the health of the population. Many people affected went blind or deaf, or had their lactation stopped, suffered miscarriage or mental troubles. Several fertile rigions turned sterile denuded of vegetations. US toxic chemicals have destroyed the jungle, entailed inundation, rendered the soil sterile, produced changes in weather, polluted the source of water and made havoc of bird and fish and would left severe unpredictable long range effects.

In the history of wars never have toxic chemicals been used in so great a quantity and in so vast a scale for so many years running and directed as wantonly to civilians as the American did in South Viet Nam.

The South Viet Nam Committee for denunciation of the crimes of the US imperialists and their henchmen, energetically denounces to the public opinion at home and abroad the above-mentioned crimes.

We earnestly call upon all governments and the peoples around the world, all democratic and progressive organisations, all lawyers, scientists, civil rights activists, religious circles to raise their voices and to take concrete deeds to stop the bloody hand of US aggressors, to demand them to put an end to the chemical warfare in South Viet Nam and their aggressive war, to withdraw promptly, completely and unconditionally the US and satellite troops from South Viet Nam, so that the South Vietnamese people may settle themselve their own affairs.

While the US imperialists are still obstinately pursuing their aggressive war and perpetrating gruesome crimes against South Vietnamese people, the latter, with deep hatred, and more united and resolute than ever, will unremittingly pursue the struggle till complete victory to gain independence and freedom to the Fatherland.

South Viet Nam, February 2, 1970

— *Peace-mined American women facing bayonets.*

— *Soviet-made ambulances destined to Viet Nam.*

— *Chilian: "Yanky atras! Viet Nam vencera!"*

— *Mrs. Castincam of Grenoble (France) with the SVNRPRG flag, is an active peace-fighter.*

THEY ARE WORTHY OF THE women's day tradition

IN 1969 the common front of the world peoples against US aggressive imperialism included the widespread movement of women in support of the South Vietnamese people and women's resistance for national salvation. This movement has rallied ever more participants from different social strata and unfolded without let-up in many countries. It took on most vivid, diversified forms of action which was concentrated on these slogans: swift, total and unconditional pull-out of American and satellite forces from SVN; the SVN problem must be settled on the basis of the over-all ten-point solution advanced by the NFL and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the RSVN.

Actuated by generous feelings, the world peoples who love and admire Viet Nam and its courageous daughters, try their best to do something for them each day. How moving for us to know that in Sidney, in large cities of Western and Northern Europe, in so many places of the USA, they set out into the streets to take part in ebullient anti-war demonstrations and call for the repatriation of American troops. "Support Viet Nam" weeks erupted on August 3, 1969 under rich forms in all socialist and many others countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

In socialist countries, while women workers attended large gatherings after "extra-hours to produce for Viet Nam", little girls, following their example, went out to the countryside collecting iron scraps with the sale of which they helped Viet Nam and their friends in the South. Such meaningful actions could be counted by the hundreds and the thousands.

We perfectly know that French women acted in accordance with these lofty words by Madame Huisman, President of the French Women's Union: "So long as an end is not put to the American war of aggression in Viet Nam, French mothers do not feel at rest and they will do everything in their power in contribution to this struggle until the women and people of South Viet Nam win final victory."

On cinema and television screens, in books and periodicals, we have seen anti-US drives in Frankfurt, Rome, London and many other cities, shoring up the NFL, the PRG of the RSVN and demanding the withdrawal of American troops from SVN. On these occasions and in encounters with the police we often noticed women pushing landaus with babies inside, shouting anti-war cries and waving NFL flags; at times they marched in the van, looking very much like our long-haired' fighters.

In Northern Europe they worked tirelessly for the people and women of South Viet Nam. Their sympathy that no electronic machine can possibly gauge, was unmistakably exhibited in teach-ins, torch carrying demonstrations, money-collecting drives, and NFL corners'... in Swedish, Finnish, Norwegian and Danish homes.

The friendship and solidarity between the peoples and women of Viet Nam and Canada was given a splendid expression in the reception on the International Bridge (Montreal) last year's summer, of the representatives of the South Viet Nam Women's Liberation Union by their Canadian sisters.

Also last year, good tidings of repeated Moratorium Days came from the United States. They reached our combatants on their way to the front, our service-workers busy chopping the enemy's communications, and our women as they prepared for political struggles. We thus knew that American mothers and wives streamed to the White House and shouted to Nixon: Swine! Lias! That dozens of thousands of symbolic balloons were let off into the sky, that candle-light of immense processions succeeded Morisson's self-immolation fire, that prayers were said amidst the ringing of church bells — so many things which urged American women to descend into the streets and demand the repatriation of their husbands and sons.

On the occassion of March 8 this year, we, female fighters of the PLAF, from the South Vietnamese forefront wish to say from the bottom of our heart to women in all continents: By your contribution to the great, over-all successes of the people and armed forces of South Viet Nam, you are worthy of the fine traditions of the Women's Day. The South Vietnamese people and women thank you for this contribution and are resolved to strive their best to deserve your, and the world peoples', warm sympathy and strong support.

HA DUY

The Israeli aggressors will pay for their crimes

Once again the blood of innocent people was shed on the territory of the United Arab Republic.

Last February 12, Israeli planes fired rockets and dropped napalm and time-bombs on a steel plant and a densely populated area near Cairo, killing and injuring some 170 people.

In the face of violent protest by public opinion, Israel's reactionary authorities hastened to allege that their air force made «mistakes», that it was not their intention to strike at the civilian population!

Coming to the rescue of its valets, Washington tried to placate world opinion. A spokesman of the State Department said: that was a "regrettable" deed! But how can the criminal exculpate himself? On February 12, Reuter was clearcut: that was a purposeful attack on a civilian target.

As is known to everyone, on US orders and in implementation of the US neo-colonialist policy in the Middle East, the Israeli reactionaries, acting as a shock detachment for the protection of US fat interests in the region — oil in the first place — committed aggression on neighbouring countries and have been illegally occupying part of the UAR territory since June 1967. From then on, they launched repeated attacks, killed hundreds of Arab people, herded thousands into concentration camps, and arrested and kept under detention a great many patriots. The Arabs will never forget the murderous shelling and bombing of and the savage incursions into their villages. Neither will they forget the burning of the temple Al Aqsa in Jerusalem by Israeli agents. The February 12 premeditated operation has only lengthened Israel's criminal dossier.

Noticeably, the operation took place shortly after the US president's declaration of his intention to supply Israel with Skyhawks and F.1015.

This time, the US-backed Israeli aggressor has met with a wave of protest in the UAR and other Middle East countries. On February 13, over 200,000 UAR people demonstrated, pledging unity behind President Nasser and shouting their resolve to avenge their massacred innocent fellow countrymen and to fight against Israeli aggression. Giving voice to this determination was the recent conference of five Arab countries—the UAR, Syria, Soudan, Irak and Jordan.

Following Israel's February 12 raid, member organizations of the Front and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the RSVN strongly denounced the Israel aggressor and expressed their support and deep confidence that the Arab peoples' fight is bound to win.

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